



ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE March 22, 2002

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GOVERNOR

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- The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announces that as the April 1, 2002 deadline approaches, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the USFA report more 15,000 fire departments are working on their on-line application, and more than 500 completed applications have already been received. This year's \$360 million Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is designed to further enhance local fire department capabilities to protect the health and safety of the public and to protect firefighting personnel. The grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Fire departments can apply for grants in one of four categories: **Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety** (Training, Wellness and Fitness, Firefighting Equipment, and Personal Protective Equipment), **Fire Prevention** (Public Education, Public Awareness, Code Enforcement, and Arson Prevention), **Emergency Medical Services** (Training and/or Equipment), and **Firefighting Vehicles**. Applications are available at: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants>. While this year's applications are primarily internet based, paper applications are available by calling the toll-free fire grant helpline at (866) 274-0960 for fire departments without internet access. Grant writing, advice, and assistance are available through the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) at (217) 333-3800.
- The U.S. Department of Justice announced several federal training opportunities offered at no expense to firefighters, EMS personnel, law enforcement officers, public officials, and other emergency response personnel who make decisions in the critical first minutes and hours of a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) incident. The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) training is not just theoretical; during "live agent" training, students use protective gear and detection equipment in the presence of real chemical weapons. The CDP is located in Anniston, Alabama, at the former Fort McClellan, which closed in 1999. The CDP offers WMD hazmat technician and incident command. Travel, lodging and instruction are provided at no expense to students. For details, contact the CDP at (256) 847-2132 or go to www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/ta/training.htm.

- The Center for National Response is a unique WMD training facility. First responders tackle scenarios in the 79,000 square foot, two-lane environment run by the Department of Defense (DoD). According to the DoD, they have five scenario sets available: the post-blast rubble area with hazards and vehicles; the subway train and station with messanine; three illicit chemical biological or drug labs at different levels of sophistication; a highway hazmat incident that can be configured with a wide variety of CBRNE cargos and numerous vehicles; and a confined space emergency egress trainer. Each set can be modified to fit an organization's training objectives. The facility is near the town of Standard, West Virginia. There are no user fees for local, state, or federal first responders. For more details, send an e-mail to cnr@rpihq.com.
- The National Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center (EMRTC) offers training where students see firsthand the havoc wreaked by briefcase bombs, letter bombs, and up to 1,000 pounds of explosives. Housed at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, EMRTC offers live explosive training with field exercises and classroom instruction about devices that first responders may encounter. For more details, visit www.emrtc.nmt.edu.
- The Nevada Test Site (NTS)/National Exercise, Test, and Training Center is the Department of Energy's Nevada test site and offers large-scale field exercises using live-agent stimulants and explosives. NTS currently delivers a radiological/nuclear agents course; a four-day exercise design course for those who design and run WMD preparedness exercises; and multiple scenario exercises for jurisdictions that have completed the exercise design course. The training, travel, meals, and lodging are provided at no cost to the state or local organization or responder. For more information, contact NTS via www.nv.doe.gov/nts.
- The Clinton and LaSalle lakes have been opened to the public. The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety will continue to evaluate and monitor security considerations associated with reopening portions of the nuclear power station cooling lakes at Braidwood and Dresden to fishing and/or recreational boaters.
- The Illinois Department of Agriculture is hosting a meeting of the National Egg Regulatory Officials in Springfield during the last week of March. The Association's Biosecurity Committee will meet to evaluate biosecurity concerns during inspections at different types of facilities such as in-line and off-line egg operations, wholesale locations, etc. The intent is to develop a model guideline for

biosecurity during inspections, and to implement biosecurity recommendations for the egg industry.

- The Illinois Department of Public Health and Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) Regional Health Officers (RHOs) met to discuss coordination and collaboration of preparedness activities among local public health and emergency management agencies. By this summer, RHOs will meet with IEMA regional coordinator(s) to discuss the coordination of preparedness activities and implementation of National Pharmaceutical Stockpile plans.
- The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) was notified that Illinois' Phase I grant application to the Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) for hospital bioterrorism preparedness has been received and reviewed. IDPH also conducted the initial meeting of the Hospital Preparedness Workgroup to the Bioterrorism Committee. As a requirement of the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) grant for hospital bioterrorism preparedness, the Department must establish an advisory group to assist in the study of preparedness issues of health care systems. Organizations which participated in the initial meeting included both hospital, public health and non-hospital medical associations, including the Office of Rural Health. The mission of the workgroup is to study preparedness and current health issues, including potential incidents involving weapons of mass destruction, identify hospital response and prevention strategies, establish core preparedness standards for both adults and pediatrics, study communication barriers, recommend planning and training needs for health care staff, and recommend standards for three levels of health care facility preparedness.
- The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has finalized a contract with Meridan (producer of Mark I® antidote kits) to procure approximately 40,000 chemical agent antidote kits for the state cache. Funding for the antidote kits was provided through Governor Ryan's homeland security supplemental appropriation. Meridan will ship the kits within 140 days to locations designated by IDPH. The current plan, upon approval by the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, is to distribute the kits to the Level A and B HAZMAT teams in Illinois to ensure rapid deployment to the scene of a nerve agent incident.
- As of March 18, the Illinois Department of Public Health, Springfield and Chicago laboratories have processed 1,668 samples. All have been negative for anthrax.
- Soldiers of the 66th Brigade are federally deployed for missions in Europe. Approximate length of

the mission is nine months. Location of unit or partial unit deployments includes Decatur, Chicago, Elgin, Aurora, Mattoon, Effingham, Bartonville, Woodstock, Litchfield, Bloomington, Waukegan, Machesney Park, Danville, and Kankakee.

- Governor George H. Ryan recently addressed about 150 members of the Illinois Air National Guard's 183rd Fighter Wing at a departure ceremony before they mobilized for active duty at various locations throughout Southwest Asia. Members of the 183rd, based at Springfield's Capital Airport, will fly "Operation Southern Watch," enforcing the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.
- The Illinois National Guard continues to update and modify the State Active Duty plan to reflect the most current unit/organization posture in support of contingency plans. Other actions include developing contingency plans as perceived threats are received, working with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency in maintaining accurate information for the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan (IEOP), participation in the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF), including co-chair of the Public Information sub-committee, participation in bi-weekly Illinois State Police intelligence briefings, participation on the U.S. Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Task Force, and participation in WMD and terrorism exercises throughout the state.
- The American Red Cross (ARC) is finalizing an agreement with the YMCA to utilize their facilities and personnel to assist in the registration of spontaneous volunteers following a major disaster. Church World Service and the Boys and Girls Clubs have expressed an interest to assist in this area. This would provide facilities away from the disaster site to register, interview, train, and schedule volunteers who desire to be utilized following a disaster.
- The ARC has mailed brochures announcing the Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration to be held on May 9-10 in Lisle, Illinois. The course "Human Resources in a Disaster" will be offered at the conference to assist those to understand human resources issues involving recruitment and use of volunteers in a disaster.
- The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Division of Aeronautics, met with the Department of Transportation Executive Office to form a Transportation Committee of the Terrorism Task Force. As a result, the Aviation Working Group previously established by the Division will be incorporated into the Transportation committee. The composition of the group has not yet been established.

Discussion in the meeting recommended that the Division establish preparedness and training guidelines for airport management related to the Homeland Security Advisory System.

- IDOT personnel attended the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) Great Lakes Region Directors meeting in Detroit, Michigan, March 20, 2002. The agenda included a discussion from the Federal Aviation Administration's Regional Administrator on general aviation security issues.
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation Police hosted a meeting with the U.S. Coast Guard, Chicago Police Marine Unit, and Lake County Sheriff's Marine Unit to further coordinate the planning process for the upcoming recreational boating season